THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

NEWS

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Masterworks from the Cleveland Museum of Art Travel to Beijing World Art Museum for Historic May 26 Opening

Landmark Exhibition Comprises "Finest Selection of European Masterpieces Ever to be Shown in China"

CLEVELAND (April 20, 2006) — The Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) today announced the historic premiere of **From Monet to Picasso: Masterworks from The Cleveland Museum of Art** at the Beijing World Art Museum on May 26, 2006. The exhibition, which will be on view until August 27, 2006, comprises the finest selection of modern European masterpieces ever to be shown in China.

From Monet to Picasso is one of six such traveling exhibitions from The Cleveland Museum of Art scheduled for presentation at more than a dozen venues over the next four years. Drawn from all areas of The Cleveland Museum of Art's encyclopedic collection, these special exhibitions will feature medieval objects, Chinese paintings and Japanese masterworks, in addition to modern European masterworks.

"We take great pride in this collaboration with the Beijing World Art Museum," said CMA Director Timothy Rub. "Having begun our $258 million renovation and expansion project in October 2005, we are taking advantage of this rare opportunity to share masterpieces from our permanent collection with audiences around the world. A touring series of this magnitude is unlikely to repeat itself in our lifetime. As we begin to reinstall our collections in 2008, many of these works will return to Cleveland and we will once again open our doors free of charge to the world."

According to Beijing World Art Museum Director Wang Limei, "This exhibition from The Cleveland Museum of Art will certainly play an important role in promoting cultural and academic exchanges between our two great countries. The show will benefit thousands of Chinese people who will view these works of art, masterpieces of the very highest caliber, with indelible Western cultural characteristics. This will certainly become a milestone in the history of U.S.-Sino cultural and educational exchange."

From Monet to Picasso: Masterworks from The Cleveland Museum of Art exhibition puts these masterworks — 47 paintings and 13 sculptures— into the context of their artistic movements. The exhibition is divided into the following groupings: The Impressionist Epoch; Post-Impressionism; Early Modernist Sculpture and The Age of the Avant-Gardes.

The show brings together 60 of the Museum's most highly acclaimed European paintings and sculptures from the late-19th and early-20th centuries. Highlights include: Pierre-Auguste Renoir's (French, 1841-1919)

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Romaine Lacaux (1864); Claude Monet's (French, 1840-1926) *The Red Kerchief: Portrait of Mme. Monet* (1868-1870); Berthe Morisot's (French, 1841-1895) *Reading* (1873); Auguste Rodin's (French, 1840-1917) *Heroic Head of Pierre de Wiessant, One of the Burghers of Calais* (1886); Vincent van Gogh's (Dutch, 1853-1890) *The Poplars at Saint-Rémy* (1889); Paul Gauguin's (French, 1848-1903) *In the Waves* (1889); Paul Cézanne's (French, 1839-1906) *The Brook* (c. 1895-1900); Pablo Picasso's (Spanish, 1881-1973) *Bottle, Glass, and Fork* (1911-1912); Amedeo Modigliani's (Italian, 1884-1920) *Portrait of a Woman* (c. 1917-1918); and Henri Matisse's (French, 1869-1954) *Festival of Flowers, Nice (Fête des Fleurs)* (1923). A Chinese-language catalog also will accompany the exhibition.

After traveling to the Beijing World Art Museum, **From Monet to Picasso: Masterworks from The Cleveland Museum of Art** will open at the Mori Arts Center in Tokyo in September, [followed by an opening at the Seoul Arts Center in Seoul, Korea, in December 2006 (TBD)]. This is the first major show of European Impressionists and Modern masters to travel to these three major Asian capitals. The exhibition will then be on view at approximately five additional North American venues, including CMA in Fall 2007, before returning for reinstallation at the Cleveland Museum of Art in early 2009.

According to CMA Deputy Director of Collections and Programs Charles L. Venable, "This exhibition allows us to share legendary treasures with international audiences, many of whom have never seen Western art of this quality. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for both the CMA and thousands of art museum visitors in Asia and North America. Even more," he added, "this type of programming is at the heart of our 90-year mission: 'to provide art for the benefit of all people forever.'" This rare opportunity was made possible only after The Cleveland Museum of Art's $258 million renovation and expansion project commenced in October 2005.

The Cleveland Museum of Art's Building and Expansion Project

The new Museum, designed by the acclaimed architect Rafael Viñoly, will increase the Museum's size by nearly 200,000 square feet and will create an architectural setting on par with The Cleveland Museum of Art's extraordinary collection of objects spanning 6,000 years. The two phases of construction are scheduled for completion in 2008 and 2011, respectively. The first phase of the project will result in the renovation of the Museum's architecturally renowned 1971 Marcel Breuer Building and its landmark 1916 Beaux Arts Building, as well as the construction of a new East Wing by 2008. The second phase includes a central piazza and a new West Wing. For additional information on the project, visit http://www.clevelandart.org/educef/cmabuilds/html/.

During construction, the Museum will continue to provide on- and off-site world-class arts and art education experiences to visitors. This fall, as the traveling exhibitions continue, the Museum will present a major on-site exhibition developed in partnership with The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City entitled **Barcelona & Modernity: Picasso, Gaudí, Miró, Dalí**. On view in Cleveland from Sunday, Oct. 15, 2006, through Jan. 7, 2007, this exhibition will be the first in North America to explore the remarkable 71-year period (1868-1939) when Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia, transformed itself from a city of provincial culture into one of the most dynamic centers of modernist art and architecture in Europe. The exhibition **Monet in Normandy** will be on

view Feb. 18- May 20, 2007, followed by the reopening of select galleries in the 1916 Building in 2007. The Museum's new East Wing, housing its new, larger temporary exhibitions space, will open in Spring 2008 with the exhibition, **Artistic Luxury: Fabergé, Tiffany, Lalique**.

About The Cleveland Museum of Art's Permanent Collection

The permanent collection of The Cleveland Museum of Art demonstrates a broad range of human creativity spanning world cultures and history. The collection has grown significantly since the Museum's founding in 1916 and continues to grow as the Museum acquires new objects. Holdings of Western art begin with ancient Near East, Egypt, Rome and Greece, and progress through Medieval and Renaissance Europe, 18th- and 19th-century European and American art, Impressionism, and Modernism, concluding with works from our time. The Museum's distinguished collection of Asian art includes works from China, Japan, Korea, India, the Himalayas and Southeast Asia. The Museum also holds smaller collections of art of the ancient Americas and African Art.

About The Cleveland Museum of Art

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of America's leading comprehensive museums. Its permanent collection is world renowned for its quality and scope, spanning 6,000 years of human achievement in the arts. The Museum is a significant international forum for exhibitions, scholarship and art education. For more information on the Museum, its holdings, programs, services and events, please call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.ClevelandArt.org.

About the Beijing World Art Museum

Opened to the public in 2001, the museum was renamed the Beijing World Art Museum in late 2005, indicating greater clarity of purpose, focus and vision after three years of preparation. The Museum has successfully organized exhibitions in collaboration with various domestic and foreign governments, museums and various cultural enterprises. Themes explored in previous foreign exhibitions include: Mayan civilization, Etruria, and artists such as Picasso and Dalí. A recent exhibition of works from the Uffizi and other Italian collections, **Italian Renaissance Art**, was organized to mark the museums reopening in January 2006.

The Beijing World Art Museum displays and studies works of art from around the world. Sponsored by the Beijing Municipal Government and operated by Beijing Gehua Culture Development Group, its mission is to: study and comment on world art and culture from the Chinese perspective and demonstrate the new cultural force in China's revival; foster and promote understanding and respect for human cultures; support global art education as a national educational base for China's schools and universities; and support the academic development of world art history in China and the world.

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Having assembled a panel of world art historians from the Central Academy of Fine Arts, Peking University, the China Academy of Fine Arts and other institutions, the Museum is currently seeking to enrich its permanent collection through acquisitions and loans of art, as well as digital information. In addition to traditional installations and thematic exhibitions, the museum's strong focus on digital and multimedia exhibitions allows visitors to further understand art through extensive information sharing, clear detail and "observations from all angles." Rare among Chinese museums, the Beijing World Art Museum's technological facilities include: a 20-panel video screen hall, a digital gallery and four digital exhibition halls. Each of its halls has teleconferencing capabilities and each is equipped with wide local area network and high-speed Internet access.

Following **From Monet to Picasso**, the **Great Ancient Civilizations** will open to the public in October 2006 as the museum's "permanent show." This exhibition will be on view for two years and is the result of a collaboration with four American museums, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the University of Pennsylvania's Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, and the Bowers Museum of Cultural Art in Santa Ana, Calif., as well as seven Italian museums and institutes. Beyond this project, the Beijing World Art Museum is developing other interesting programs for the future. These projects include: **Tales From An Eruption: Pompeii, Herculaneum, Oplontis**; an exhibition of Van Gogh Paintings in 2007; **Great Empires: Qin, Han and Rome**; and **Highlights from the Phillips Collection**. All are currently in the planning stages for the Olympic year 2008. For more information on the Beijing World Art Museum, please visit www.worldartmuseum.cn.

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